

Appendix 1. Characteristics of the study population and univariate comparison of the three patient groups (N=516)

	Total N=516	No COVID n=180 (34.9%)	Confirmed COVID n=166 (32.2%)	Uncertain COVID n=170 (32.9%)	p ^a	Confirmed COVID vs no-COVID OR [95% CI]	p ^b	Confirmed COVID vs uncertain COVID OR [95% CI]	p ^b
Age (years) (median, IQR)	43 [33-56]	45 [35-56.5]	49 [39-59]	36 [29-49]	<0.001	1.02 [1.01-1.03]	0.027	1.04 [1.03-1.06]	<0.001
Male sex	195 (37.8)	61 (33.9)	58 (34.9)	76 (44.7)	0.074	0.99 [0.63-1.56]	0.957	0.58 [0.36-0.93]	0.046
Caregivers (n=463/165/149/149)	58 (12.5)	17 (10.3)	31 (20.8)	10 (6.7)	0.001	2.70 [1.39-5.24]	0.003	5.58 [2.50-12.46]	<0.001
Contact with confirmed positive case (n=290/96/98/96)					<0.001		0.006		<0.001
No	130 (44.8)	48 (50.0)	30 (30.6)	52 (54.2)		1 (ref)		1 (ref)	
Yes	67 (23.1)	19 (19.8)	36 (36.7)	12 (12.5)		3.48 [1.62-7.51]		8.77 [3.59-21.46]	
Uncertain	93 (32.1)	29 (30.2)	32 (32.7)	32 (33.3)		1.95 [0.95-4.01]		2.59 [1.22-5.51]	
Smoking (n=159/62/52/45)	64 (40.3)	28 (45.2)	16 (30.8)	20 (44.4)	0.235				
At least one comorbidity (n=509/178/164/167)	207 (40.7)	85 (47.8)	77 (47.0)	45 (27.0)	<0.001	0.84 [0.52-1.31]	0.416	1.67 [1.01-2.79]	0.092
Dyslipidaemia (n=509/178/164/167)	16 (3.1)	8 (4.5)	7 (4.3)	1 (0.6)	0.071	0.73 [0.24-2.18]	0.570	3.11 [0.36-27.18]	0.57
Obesity (n=173/59/59/55)	67 (38.7)	25 (42.4)	23 (39.0)	19 (34.6)	0.692				
Hypertension (n=509/178/164/167)	70 (13.8)	25 (14.0)	29 (17.7)	16 (9.6.)	0.100	1.05 [0.54-2.03]	0.882	0.88 [0.42-1.88]	0.882
Diabetes (n=509/178/164/167)	31 (6.1)	18 (10.1)	7 (4.3)	6 (3.6)	0.020	0.28 [0.11-0.73]	0.018	0.62 [0.19-2.00]	0.423
Cardiovascular disease (n=509/178/164/167)	33 (6.5)	9 (5.1)	16 (9.8)	8 (4.8)	0.117	1.81 [0.73-4.45]	0.398	0.94 [0.36-2.48]	0.903
Asthma (n=509/178/164/167)	52 (10.2)	19 (10.7)	15 (9.2)	18 (10.8)	0.859				
COPD (n=509/178/164/167)	9 (1.8)	6 (3.4)	0 (0)	3 (1.8)					
Venous thromboembolism (n=509/178/164/167)	7 (1.4)	4 (2.3)	1 (0.6)	2 (1.2)					
Inflammatory rheumatic disease (n=509/178/164/167)	9 (1.8)	4 (2.3)	2 (1.2)	3 (1.8)					
Cancers (n=509/178/164/167)	13 (2.6)	8 (4.5)	4 (2.4)	1 (0.6)	0.059	0.48 [0.14-1.69]	0.407	2.61 [0.27-25.37]	0.407
Autoimmune diseases (MS, UC, Crohn's, SLE, sarcoidosis, Basedow etc.) (n=509/178/164/167)	15 (3.0)	10 (5.6)	4 (2.4)	1 (0.6)	0.015	0.33 [0.10-1.13]	0.154	3.03 [0.32-28.38]	0.332
Age > 70 and/or presence of at least one comorbidity (n=509/178/164/167)	210 (41.2)	85 (47.8)	78 (47.6)	47 (28.1)	<0.001	1.03 [0.67-1.59]	0.899	2.33 [1.45-3.74]	<0.001
Mode of consultation (n=515/179/166/170)					0.526				
Face-to-face	345 (67.0)	125 (69.8)	114 (68.7)	106 (62.4)					
Teleconsultation	157 (30.5)	50 (27.9)	48 (28.9)	59 (34.7)					
Phone	10 (1.9)	4 (2.3)	2 (1.2)	4 (2.3)					
Home visit	3 (0.6)	0 (0)	2 (1.2)	1 (0.6)					
Symptoms at the initial consultation									
Fever or feeling feverish (n=469/158/151/160)	200 (42.6)	68 (43.0)	81 (53.6)	51 (31.9)	0.001	1.58 [0.99-2.53]	0.058	2.15 [1.31-3.52]	0.004
Asthenia (n=184/74/61/49)	145 (78.8)	56 (75.7)	50 (82.0)	39 (79.6)	0.665				
Muscle ache (n=370/117/123/130)	219 (59.2)	67 (57.3)	85 (69.1)	67 (51.5)	0.015	1.63 [0.95-2.80]	0.074	1.91 [1.11-3.29]	0.04
Headache (n=358/121/108/129)	216 (60.3)	76 (62.8)	59 (54.6)	81 (62.8)	0.349				

Rhinorrhoea (n=366/126/109/131)	194 (53.0)	75 (59.5)	56 (51.4)	63 (48.1)	0.171			
Cough (n=471/163/149/159)	366 (77.7)	127 (77.9)	119 (79.9)	120 (75.5)	0.649			
Expectorations (n=265/80/80/105)	61 (23.0)	17 (21.3)	18 (22.5)	26 (24.8)	0.846			
Chest pain (n=325/107/103/115)	80 (24.6)	39 (36.5)	19 (18.5)	22 (19.1)	0.002	0.40 [0.21-0.77]	0.012	0.97 [0.48-1.98]
Dyspnoea at rest and/or on exertion (n=370/131/116/123)	128 (34.6)	56 (42.8)	35 (30.2)	37 (30.1)	0.051	0.56 [0.32-0.96]	0.07	1.09 [0.61-1.96]
Sore throat (n=351/122/102/127)	177 (50.4)	73 (59.8)	44 (43.1)	60 (47.2)	0.030	0.50 [0.29-0.88]	0.032	0.91 [0.53-1.58]
Anosmia (n=317/109/100/108)	74 (23.3)	11 (10.1)	42 (42.0)	21 (19.4)	<0.001	7.11 [3.30-15.29]	<0.001	3.74 [1.91-7.31]
Agueusia (n=282/89/94/99)	75 (26.6)	13 (14.6)	42 (44.7)	20 (20.2)	<0.001	4.79 [2.31-9.93]	<0.001	3.38 [1.73-6.59]
Nausea and/or vomiting (n=343/120/100/123)	50 (14.6)	19 (15.8)	15 (15.0)	16 (13.0)	0.815			
Diarrhoea (n=360/127/110/123)	84 (23.3)	33 (26.0)	32 (29.1)	19 (15.5)	0.033	1.21 [0.68-2.17]	0.513	2.58 [1.31-5.07]
Abdominal pain (n=143/57/44/42)	19 (13.3)	7 (12.3)	7 (15.9)	5 (11.9)	0.826			
Number of symptoms (tertile; n=511/179/163/169)					0.528			
≤3	181 (35.4)	68 (38.0)	49 (30.1)	64 (37.9)				
4-5	184 (36.0)	62 (34.6)	62 (38.0)	60 (35.5)				
>5	146 (28.6)	49 (27.4)	52 (31.9)	45 (26.6)				
Number of systemic symptoms (tertile; n=511/179/163/169)					0.020			
≤1	216 (42.3)	82 (45.8)	56 (34.3)	78 (46.2)	1 (ref)	0.100	1 (ref)	0.072
2	142 (27.8)	40 (22.4)	49 (30.1)	53 (31.4)	1.80 [1.04-3.11]		1.19 [0.69-2.05]	
>2	153 (29.9)	57 (31.8)	58 (35.6)	38 (22.5)	1.42 [0.85-2.37]		1.83 [1.04-3.22]	
Number of ENT symptoms (tertile; n=511/179/163/169)					0.277			
0	182 (35.6)	62 (34.6)	55 (33.7)	65 (38.5)				
1	188 (36.8)	75 (41.9)	55 (33.7)	58 (34.3)				
>1	141 (27.6)	42 (23.5)	53 (32.6)	46 (27.2)				
Clinical examination								
Temperature>38°C					0.012	0.343		<0.001
No	325 (63.0)	110 (61.1)	92 (55.4)	123 (72.4)	1 (ref)		1 (ref)	
Yes	39 (7.6)	15 (8.3)	18 (10.8)	6 (3.5)	1.52 [0.71-3.24]		4.09 [1.48-11.30]	
Not reported or missing	152 (29.4)	55 (30.6)	56 (33.7)	41 (24.1)	1.35 [0.83-2.20]		2.30 [1.35-3.91]	
Respiratory rate (per minute) (n=101/41/38/22)	18 [16-20]	18 [16-20]	20 [17-20]	18 [16-20]	0.387			
SaO2 (%) (n=272/91/96/85)	98 [97-99]	98 [97-99]	98 [97-99]	98 [97-99]	0.153			
Abnormalities in a lung examination					0.585			
No	270 (52.3)	94 (52.2)	90 (54.2)	86 (50.6)				
Yes	48 (9.3)	20 (11.1)	16 (9.7)	12 (7.1)				
Not reported or missing	198 (38.4)	66 (36.7)	60 (36.1)	72 (42.3)				

Data are quoted as the n (%) for qualitative variables and the median [IQR] for quantitative variables

a The p-values were obtained from a chi-squared test or Fisher's exact test for qualitative variables and from the Kruskal Wallis test for quantitative variables

b Age-adjusted multilevel multinomial logistic regression; p-values of pairwise comparisons were corrected by the False discovery rate method

COPD: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; MS: multiple sclerosis; UC: ulcerative colitis; SLE: systemic lupus erythematosus; ENT: ear nose throat; SaO₂: arterial oxygen saturation; OR: odds ratio; CI: confidence interval